



# United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK  
P.O. BOX 129  
GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA 86023-0129

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7617 (GRCA 8213)

Control Number:

Dear Interested Party:

Attached for your review and comment is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Colorado River Management Plan for Grand Canyon National Park. The document identifies and assesses various alternatives for the management of recreational use of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park.

For the purposes of this plan, the Colorado River has been divided into two geographic sections, with a specific set of alternatives for each section. For the upper section from Lees Ferry (River Mile 0) to Diamond Creek (River Mile 226), the plan considers eight alternatives, including a no-action alternative (Alternative A) and a preferred alternative (Alternative H) representing different mixes and limits of group size, trip lengths, launches per day, user days, seasonal variations, motorized and non-motorized use, commercial and non-commercial use, and other factors. The NPS preferred alternative (H) provides for a mix of motorized and non-motorized use, more evenly distributed launch patterns, and changes to allocation and permit systems.

For the Lower Gorge section from Diamond Creek (River Mile 226) to Lake Mead (River Mile 277), the plan considers five alternatives, including a no-action alternative (Alternative 1), and National Park Service preferred alternative (Alternative 4), and a Hualapai Tribe proposed alternative (Alternative 5). Major differences in alternatives include limits on Diamond Creek launches, commercial group size, trip length, pontoon boat operations, and up river travel from Lake Mead. The NPS preferred is the same as the Hualapai Tribe's proposed alternative except for level of pontoon boat operations and upriver travel restrictions.

Public participation is very important to the successful development of the Colorado River Management Plan. Therefore, we ask for your thoughtful evaluation and comment. Public comments will be accepted until January 7, 2005. Please address your comments to CRMP Project, Grand Canyon National Park P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023. For information or questions, call Rick Ernenwein at (928) 779-6279.

We thank you in advance for your attention and we appreciate your concern for the future of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Alston  
Superintendent

